Petition for Reconsideration of Denial of Petition for Waiver of FCC Form 471 Filing Deadline for Funding Year 2018 RE: FCC Form 471, BEN No. 141689 Public Notice of Denial RE: DA 18-991, Released September 28, 2018

CC Docket No. 02-6

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The Bastrop Public Library is a small to medium sized municipal (public) library. The library serves both the City and County of Bastrop. Bastrop County has an estimated population of 90,000 and the City of Bastrop has an estimated 8,800 residents. Bastrop County is a rural area. The County has a high number of economically disadvantage families and an estimated 70% of children who attend the Bastrop Independent School District are eligible to receive free/reduced priced meals. A number of these families cannot afford to purchase access to the Internet. Also, due to the lack of available Internet providers, some County residents only have dial-up or are forced to use an expensive satellite service.

The Bastrop Public Library is one of the main sources in Bastrop County for free access to broadband high-speed Internet. Residents visit the library to use the Internet to create resumes, search for employment, complete online applications, take online high school and college courses, work on homework, connect with family, create email accounts to communicate with government entities, entrepreneurs gather information to assist them in creating new businesses, and many other reasons.

Cities the size of Bastrop face numerous economic challenges, from maintaining and/or expanding infrastructure to attracting new businesses. Technology is the key to improving the lives of its residents. Providing high-speed Internet and WIFI hotspots are expensive. The E-Rate discount program helps to supplement our funds and enables us to make available the fastest Internet possible. Without the

E-Rate discounts, our ability to provide the community with the broadband capacity and high-speed Internet it needs, is reduced.

As noted in the original Petition of Waiver, the Bastrop Public Library failed to meet the deadline in submitting Form 471 for 2018. Even though the Form 471 was submitted on time (submitted March 11, 2018), the form was not certified (certification submitted April 25, 2018) by me until after the deadline had passed. As previously noted in the Request for Waiver, I was unsure of the correct procedure for submitting the form and thinking that I had completed my part of the task, I did not follow-up thinking that USAC would provide me additional instructions. I did not realize that the form must be certified at the time of submittal. Eventually, due to missing the submittal deadline, I received an email notice from USAC that the Form 471 had been denied.

Upon notice from USAC that the Form 471 had been denied, I immediately submitted a Petition of Waiver to the FCC. I do understand the importance of following the rules and regulations of the FCC, but I ask that the Commission reconsider the Bastrop Public Library's Petition of Waiver to allow the Out of Window submission of the library's E-Rate Funding Year 2018 FCC Form 471, #181021641.

With the support of the federal government, broadband availability has reached into many rural areas across the United States. The Bastrop Public Library has used this investment to supplement its funding to provide the fastest Internet possible in support of its community. I cannot stress enough that the loss of these discounted funds will have a large impact on the library's ability to provide the broadband services and high-speed Internet the community needs.

It is my hope that even though I failed to complete the final step in completing the Form 471, the entire Bastrop community will not have to suffer for my mistake.

II. REQUEST

Therefore, the Bastrop Public Library respectfully petitions the Commission to reconsider the decision to deny (DA 18-991, released September 28, 2018) the library's Petition for Waiver of FCC form 471 Filing Deadline for Funding Year 2018 (RE: FCC Form 471, BEN No. 141689) to allow an Out of Window submission for the E-rate Funding Year 2018 FCC Form 471, No. 181021541.

Respectfully Submitted,

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